

Mr. Wilson pointed out that Canadian steel imports from the United States in 1991 accounted for 16.3 per cent of the Canadian market -- more than triple the 1986 level. This is in sharp contrast to imports of Canadian steel to the United States, which have remained stable at 3.3 per cent of the U.S. market.

The Canadian industry has also argued that its exports to the U.S. are truckload shipments made to order and for just-in-time delivery to U.S. customers, as opposed to the large boatload shipments imported into the United States from much of the rest of the world, and offered for sale at any price.

"There is a significant difference between Canadian steel exports and those from other countries," Mr. Wilson noted. "We are not part of the problem and should be excluded from these investigations."

The Canadian industry, led by Stelco, Dofasco and Algoma, has filed or is now filing complaints with Revenue Canada for investigations of steel imports. Revenue Canada will probably initiate its investigations near the end of July.

Mr. Wilson added that the government would continue to work closely with the Canadian Steel Producers Association and individual steel companies in their response to the U.S. action.

"All final determinations in these cases would also be eligible for binding binational review under the dispute settlement provisions of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement," concluded Mr. Wilson. "This mechanism will be used if necessary."

Under U.S. trade law, the Department of Commerce has 20 days to decide whether to initiate an investigation. Revenue Canada has 30 days from the receipt of a properly documented complaint to decide whether to initiate an investigation.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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